

# State of Connecticut

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2005

## Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

*Committed to coordinating and providing access to resources...*

*for the advancement of the Latino & Puerto Rican communities*

### Message from the Chairperson, Ramón Arroyo

Dear Friends of LPRAC:



Welcome to the Winter 2005 issue of the Commission's newsletter. We are in the midst of preparations for our Eighth Annual Gala Awards Banquet. We are looking for new companies and private and community agencies who have not participated with our awards banquet in the past to step forward and participate. There are two very distinct forms of participating: 1) you may choose to purchase a table to attend the event; a table for 10 people would cost \$500. We are making every effort possible to keep this activity accessible to everyone; or 2) you can show your support for the award win-

ners and for the agency's mission is by purchasing an advertisement within the program book for the evening. This is the time in which we are heavily promoting the advertising and we have limited space to make available. Please contact our Special Projects Director, Lucy Goicoechea-Hernández, for more information on the rates to advertise your program, product(s) or services to the Hispanic community throughout Connecticut.

We are delighted to have collaborated with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) in launching our first collaborative effort in identifying mortgage lenders that are eager to attract the Hispanic community's business here in Connecticut. These are forums

that we will continue to hold throughout various parts of the State during 2005. We would like to thank Tim Coppage and Judy Walter of CHFA for their continued support of LPRAC's initiatives in the housing area as well as for their generous support of the Seventh Annual Gala Awards Banquet. We look forward to continued support for the Eighth Annual Awards coming up in October 2005.

We have begun the nominations process for the selection of the award recipients for the 2005 Gala Awards. Though the materials will be mailed to everyone in our database, you may also contact the office directly at 860-240-8330

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## State Boards and Commissions

Reflecting Connecticut - ¡Reflejando a Connecticut! - a project to increase the representation of people of color and women on state and local boards and commissions, held two very successful forums in the towns of Manchester and New Britain during the month of April 2004. The project is made up of 11 municipalities: Bridgeport, Bloomfield, East Granby, East Windsor, Enfield, Hartford, Manchester, New Britain, Waterbury, West Hartford and Windsor. Reflecting Connecticut is a partnership between DemocracyWorks, the African American Affairs Commission, the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women and the National Conference for Community and Justice, and 22 additional organizations statewide. We will be hosting a breakfast for Boards and Commissions

Chairpersons and interested members of the public on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at the State Capitol. We will be aggressively pursuing participation from other areas of the state in order to provide opportunities and access to as

many under-represented residents as possible. For more information, you may contact Ms. Joyce Hamilton, Executive Director of DemocracyWorks at 860-727-1157.

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[www.cga.state.ct.us/lprac](http://www.cga.state.ct.us/lprac)

Newsletter

## LPRAC COMMISSIONERS

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*Executive Director*

**Lucy Goicoechea-Hernández**  
*Special Projects Director  
& Grants Writer*

**Werner Oyanadel**  
*Associate Legislative  
Analyst*

**Clarisa Cardone**  
*Senior Legislative Secretary*

**Moraima Gutiérrez**  
*Public Information  
Officer*

## Message from Executive Director, Fernando Betancourt



Dear Friends of LPRAC:

It gives me great pleasure to forward the latest issue of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission quarterly newsletter. It has been a very successful year for the Commission in

that we have been able to attract \$30,000 of additional grant funds in order to develop a one day workshop on Financial Literacy and Wealth Management. We wish to offer our sincere appreciation to Bank of America for having made this grant possible.

We are in the process of requesting nominations for this year's Gala Awards recipients. You may obtain the nominations form and criteria by calling our offices at 860-240-8330 or by visiting the website at [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac) and downloading it from there. In addition, we have moved the event from the Mohegan Sun to Foxwoods Resort Casino. We expect to attract about 1200 participants this year. Our theme for this year's Gala is "Hispanics in the Health Field". Dr. Joxel García, former State of Connecticut Commissioner for Public Health and current Deputy for the Pan American Health Organization has agreed to be the Keynote Speaker for this year. One of the exciting aspects of this year's Gala Awards Banquet is that the Board has agreed to offer a scholarship to each of the Promesa Youth

Award recipients. Send in those nominations as fast as you can. The deadline for submission is May 27, 2005. We are also looking into the possibility of holding an educational session either the day after the Gala or on the same day so that the whole family can participate this year. We have entered into negotiations with Foxwoods Pequot Museum staff and their Public Relations representatives in order to offer an exhibit or film related to the Taino, Aztec or Mayan culture in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The Eighth Annual Gala Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2005 at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. Tickets will, once again, be just \$50 per person or \$500 for a table of 10 individuals. There are a number of new policies as relates to this year's Gala. The Board has determined that we will not sell any tickets at the door and ticket sales will close approximately one week prior to the event taking place. In addition, we will be providing numbered tickets for purchase in order to assist in faster registration processing the evening of the event. This is the main reason for the elimination of ticket sales at the door. As a result, we will be forwarding the invitations far earlier than we normally mail it out. We welcome your participation and if you would like to participate with the organizing committee or becoming a table captain we encourage you to contact our Special Projects Director, Ms. Lucy Goicoechea-Hernández immediately at 860-240-8330.

Continued on page 7

## IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER

COMMISSION MEETINGS

ARE HELD EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY

OF EACH MONTH AT THE

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, SUITE 2600

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

5:30 PM -- 8:00 PM

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IS ENCOURAGED

## Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

By Jacqueline Torres



In the year 2003, CCADV's member programs provided services to 3,400 Latina women in the state of Connecticut who were experiencing domestic violence. They believe that it is important to sensitize and increase awareness about domestic violence within our Latino communities.

The Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is a membership organization whose purpose is to work together to end domestic violence by changing the social conditions, beliefs and social actions that perpetuate abuse against women and children.

CCADV was founded in 1978 as the "Battered Women's Task Force" and incorporated in 1986, as a vehicle for community-based domestic violence shelter programs to provide statewide public policy ad-

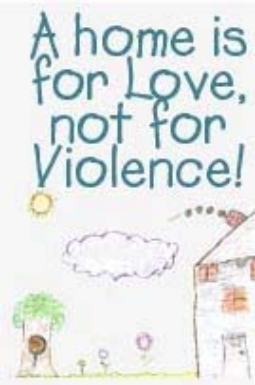
vocacy, legislative reform, and education on the issue of domestic violence.

CCADV is a statewide network of community-based programs providing shelter, support, and advocacy to battered women and their children. CCADV's 18 member shelter programs serve victims of domestic violence and their children with a variety of services including but not limited to: safety planning, crisis counseling, individual counseling and support groups, emergency shelter, specialized children's programming, advocacy to assist victims in obtaining legal remedies, referrals to connect victims to community resources, education and

tims, and the pursuit of additional funding for programs to adequately respond to the ever increasing need for service and safety for battered women and their children.

Jacqueline Torres, Statewide Project Coordinator, is responsible for overseeing CCADV's activities targeting the Latino community. For more information, contact Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence at (860) 282-7899.

***If you need help or just someone to talk to, call our confidential domestic violence hotline  
1-888-774-2900***



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## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

**State Department of Transportation** is seeking a **Transportation Maritime Manager**. The pay range is \$78,634-\$100,864 per year. For more information, please visit the State website at [www.das.state.ct.us/exam](http://www.das.state.ct.us/exam). The deadline for application is April 29, 2005.

**The Town of Greenwich** is searching for a **Fire Chief**. The salary range is \$91,000 to \$122,000. Detailed information about the town, the job posting and the job description are available at [www.greenwichct.org/HumanResources/hrCareerOpportunities.asp](http://www.greenwichct.org/HumanResources/hrCareerOpportunities.asp) or you may write to Town of Greenwich HR Dept., 101 Field Point Road, Greenwich, CT 06830 to receive the material. The position will remain open until filled.

**East Granby Public Schools** is looking for a Pupil Services Secretary (non-certified). Personnel interested in, qualified for, and/or certified in the above positions must submit a letter of application to: Dr. Robert E. Kozaczka, Superintendent - 33 Turkey Hills Road, P.O. Box 674, East Granby, CT 06026 or [www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us](http://www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us).

***The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission maintains a bulletin board with postings received from State and community agencies. Feel free to contact Clarisa Cardone, Senior Legislative Secretary at 860-240-8330 to learn more.***



## Special Projects/Activities

*By Lucy Goicoechea-Hernández  
Special Projects Director*

The Connecticut General Assembly's Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission has begun preparations for the 2005 Gala Awards Banquet. The Eighth (8th) Annual Gala Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. The event will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a reception, music and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. For the very first time, we will be able to provide a scholarship to each Promesa Award recipient. We have begun the nominations process and are looking for candidates for the 5 following categories: Latino-Latina Citizen of the Year, Promesa Youth - Male and Female and Community Service Award which is usually given to a deserving organization. The Commission voted this year to not extend the deadline for nominations so we must receive your completed nominations package by Friday, May 27, 2005. In addition, they will not accept incomplete submissions. The only exception will be if the letters of support are coming from another location and we are notified accordingly and the letters are received within the timeline for submission. We look forward to lots and lots of participation for all of the categories once again this year. You may download the form and criteria off of our website at [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac) or you may contact our office at 860-240-8330 and we can fax it to you.

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission will be organizing a Financial Literacy and Wealth Management workshop for the Fall of 2005. We were able to attract a \$30,000 grant in support of this initiative from Bank of America. We will promote the event heavily once the site, date and time have been confirmed. If you are in the financial field and wish to participate as an exhibitor or panelist, please call our office and leave your name and number and we will contact you to review your possible participation.

The Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission will once again host an exhibit in collaboration with the United States Postal Service on Hispanics high-

lighted on United States Postage Stamps as part of the activities we hold during the Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration. The unveiling will take place on September 1, 2005 at the Legislative



Ms. Leigh Piscetelli  
United States Postal Service

Office Building and will run for the entire month of September. This year, the United States Postal Service will be presenting a series of 4 new stamps called "Let's Dance" highlighting Mambo, Salsa, Tango and Merengue dances. Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commis-



Mr. Juan Luis Cruz  
United States Postal Service

sion Board and staff wish to thank Ms. Leigh Piscetelli and Mr. Juan Luis Cruz of the United States Postal Service for their continued support and sponsorship of this event. For additional information on this or any other agency activities, feel free to visit our website at [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac).

Please join us at these and many other events we have planned for this year. Thank you for your continued support.

## 2004 Meritorious Service Award Recipient

*By Lucy Goicoechea-Hernández  
Special Projects Director*



Technical Sergeant Frank Alvarado  
Connecticut Air National Guard  
103rd Air Control Squadron

Technical Sergeant **Frank Alvarado** from the Air National Guard, 103<sup>rd</sup> Air Control Squadron out of Orange, Connecticut is the second recipient from Connecticut who received the **2004 Meritorious Service Award**. The award is given to two members of The Guard that have made significant contributions to the advancement of Hispanic Americans and the promotion of diversity/equal opportunity in their local community. The meritorious Service Award was presented during the "Salute to Hispanics in the Military and Meritorious Service Award Banquet" on June 9th, 2004 at the Hilton at the Walt Disney World Resort. National Image, Inc. is a national Hispanic organization committed to increasing opportunities for Hispanic Americans in the area of employment, education and civil rights. The Department of Defense and The National Guard Bureau recognize the training and outreach value of the convention.

## IMMIGRANTS AND THE LEGISLATURE

By Barbara Richards, Professor  
Housatonic Community College

One of the challenges faced by new immigrants to the United States is the difficulty of obtaining drivers' licenses. In general, immigrants come because they need to work, both for themselves and for their family in the home country. Many available jobs are not accessible by public transportation so, therefore, cars become an indispensable part of immigrant life.

But since the day of the attack on the Twin Towers, the U.S. Government has demonstrated an increased mistrust of immigrants from all countries. In addition to the many new obstacles placed in the path of immigrants, the Department of Homeland Security, which is now handling most immigration matters, has caused long delays in procedures regarding immigrants. Some normal applications may take years to process.

For the past two years, the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles has asked the State Legislature to approve a law providing that drivers' licenses for immigrants expire on the day that their current immigration documents are no longer valid. This would cause many problems for legal immigrants as they wait for their new documents to arrive.

An informal coalition of organizations concerned about immigration has fought against this proposal. The coalition includes the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC) along with other established organizations that work on multiple issues, as well as small grassroots organizations of Latino immigrants in local communities such as New Haven, Danbury, Stamford, Bridgeport, Torrington, and Southeastern Connecticut.

This coalition has argued, in individual meetings with legislators and in public hearings at the State Capitol, that:

- The label "terrorist" should not be applied to people because they are immigrants. The vast majority of immigrants are decent hard-working people.
- Public safety is best served if immigrants have drivers' licenses, because the license certifies their ability to drive and knowledge of state laws relevant to driving.
- Many immigrants drive without licenses to get to their workplaces, and without a license they cannot buy insurance. Large numbers of uninsured motorists may lead to many complications and great expense for other state residents.
- The job of the workers at the Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles should be limited to certification of identity and ability to drive. The job of certifying immigration status belongs to the U.S. Government, not the states.
- Immigration law is extremely complicated, and local DMV employees are not qualified to judge immigration status.

One of the most impressive witnesses this year at the public hearing was Police Chief Francisco Ortiz of New Haven. He stated that the police can serve the people better if immigrants have identification such as drivers' licenses, with their photograph and address. The police need to know where people are, not have entire communities living in the shadows. Chief Ortiz also met with a large group of immigrants in New Haven to assure them

## Latino History Corner



## LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

United States Representative  
Democrat of California

*One Hundred Third - One Hundred Seventh Congresses  
January 3, 1993 - Present*

Lucille Roybal-Allard was the first Mexican-American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress. She was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992 with more than sixty percent of the vote in the general election, and was reelected in 1994 with eighty-one percent of the vote. Lucille Roybal-Allard was born in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles County, California on June 12, 1941. Her father Edward R. Roybal served in the U.S. House of Representa-

that they may safely report to the police or testify about crimes, or about abuse by people such as landlords or employers. He believes that if the police work cooperatively with immigrant communities, public safety for everyone will improve.

In both of the past two years, the coalition has been successful in stopping the DMV proposals in the legislature. Through that struggle the coalition network has grown. As immigrants continue to arrive, many new local groups have been formed. As it grows in strength, the coalition hopes to introduce its own bill to expand immigrant access to drivers' licenses. The Governor of Florida, Jeb Bush, recently proposed that all immigrants, with or without immigration documents, be eligible for drivers' licenses. The coalition is also interested in the proposals in the U.S. Congress for a "D.R.E.A.M. Act". If passed, this law would allow children of undocumented immigrants who graduate from U.S. high schools to attend state colleges with in-state tuition and apply for a green card.

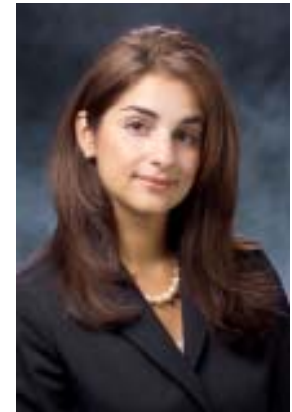
Since Congress has not yet passed this law, the state coalition would like to advocate for a state version of it. Connecticut cannot resolve a student's immigration status but it could pass a law that would help young people go to college. Right now, undocumented immigrants are excluded from some public universities in Connecticut, and in others they may attend but are required to pay out-of-state tuition, which costs 2 to 3 times more. Some states have passed laws making immigrants eligible for in-state tuition. We hope that Connecticut will do the same.

Anyone wishing to be added to the email list to receive immigration information and notices of meetings of the coalition or public hearings may contact Fernando Betancourt or Werner Oyanadel at LPRAC, or Barbara Richards at [richards@mags.net](mailto:richards@mags.net)

## Staff Awards

This year we are proud to announce that **Ms. Moraima Gutiérrez, Public Information Officer** for the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission participated in the annual *Young Hispanic Leaders Program in Santander & Madrid, Spain*. This program was founded in 1998 as an initiative of the *United States-Spain Council* (a private forum founded by United States and Spanish authorities to enhance relations between the two countries) and is sponsored by the *Fundación Carolina*. It is carried out with the collaboration of the *Fundación José Ortega y Gasset* and the *Universidad Internacional Menéndez y Pelayo*.

The objective of this program is to allow future Hispanic leaders from the United States to familiarize themselves firsthand with Spain's new political, economic, social and cultural environment. Since its founding, close to 90 young U.S. citizens of Hispanic origin have been chosen in a competitive selection process to participate in this program; each year 15 people are selected nationally. The program took place this past summer from June 23 to July 3, 2004. The *Universidad Internacional Menéndez y Pelayo* and the *Fundación José Ortega y Gasset* will award Moraima an accrediting certificate recognizing her participation in the program. Moraima was the first person from the State of Connecticut to participate in this prestigious program.



Moraima Gutiérrez  
Public Information Officer

Associate Legislative Analyst for the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and Specialist **Werner Oyanadel** the *Hispanic Special Emphasis Program Manager* for the Connecticut National Guard Human Resources & Equal Employment Office has been awarded the **2004 Meritorious Service Award** for military personnel by the National Image, Inc. The award is given to two members of The Guard that have made significant contributions to the advancement of Hispanic Americans and the promotion of diversity/equal opportunity in their local community. The meritorious Service Award was presented during the "*Salute to Hispanics in the Military and Meritorious Service Award Banquet*" on June 9th, 2004 at the Hilton at the Walt Disney World Resort. National Image, Inc. is a national Hispanic organization committed to increasing opportunities for Hispanic Americans in the area of employment, education and civil rights. The Department of Defense and The National Guard Bureau recognize the training and outreach value of the convention.



Werner Oyanadel  
Associate Legislative Analyst  
and Specialist w/ Connecticut  
Army National Guard

*To laugh often and much;  
To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children;  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;  
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;  
To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition;  
To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.  
This is to have succeeded." (Inaccurately attributed to Ralph Waldo Emerson)*



**Continued from page 2*****Executive Director's Letter***

The Public Information and Education Committee has voted to hold community forums throughout the state in order to reach more of the community. The very first one of these forums will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2005 in Bridgeport. The Committee voted to hold two forums for 2005 and we will inform you in the Spring issue of the newsletter of the site of the next one. For more information, please

**Continued from page 1*****Letter from the Chairperson***

to obtain a copy or you may download a copy from the agency website at [www.cga.ct.gov/lprac](http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac). We would like also to extend our gratitude to the Connecticut State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal for having agreed to serve as our Honorary Chairman for the annual Awards Banquet held in 2004. We are beginning the process of receiving nominations for the award recipients for 2005. This year's Gala Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday, October 8, 2005. It will be held at Foxwoods Resort Casino. Mark your calendars and check our website for the location which is forthcoming.

We will once again assist the Hartford Public Schools with their Fifth Annual Two-Day Dual Language Institute to be held on Thursday and Friday, June 29 and 30, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Cromwell, Connecticut. For more information, please contact Ms. Carol Bernson Shapiro at 860-695-8526.

As you will note, the agency is continuing to grow and prosper despite the challenging year we faced in the past legislative session. We welcome your comments and look forward to the community's par-

contact Ms. Moraima Gutiérrez at 860-240-8330. We are collaborating with the Hartford Public Schools in bringing about the fifth annual Dual Language Two-Day Institute to be held on Wednesday and Thursday, June 29 and 30, 2005 at the Radisson in Cromwell, Connecticut. LPRAC staff and commissioners will be on hand to assist with a full range of activity related to the conference. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ms. Carol Bernson Shapiro at the Hartford Public Schools at 860-695-8526.

We are proud to extend our congratulations to Ms. Moraima Gutiérrez and Mr. Werner Oyanadel for their respective leadership award designations last summer. For more information on their

accomplishments, please refer to page 6 of this newsletter.

Agency staff worked in conjunction with the staff at Leadership Greater Hartford, members of the Latino Leadership Development Network and the Connecticut Association of Latin Americans in Higher Education in preparing the third Latino Leadership Development summit which was held on Friday, December 3, 2004 at the Farmington Marriott in Farmington, Connecticut. The theme for the summit was "Impacto Latino: Leading with New Rythmn." If you are interested in working on any of the committees or joining the Steering Committee in the development of future summits, please contact Ms. Rita Rivera Ortiz at Leadership Greater Hartford - 860-951-6161x15. Anyone interested in leadership development is most welcomed!

We are working in constant collaboration with the full commission and the committees of the commission to bring about more variety and programming for the community and encourage all of you to attend the commission meetings which are held the third Wednesday of the month (except in August) or to participate in the activities we hold throughout the year. Please also consider becoming part of our Talent Bank for appointment to Boards and Commissions. You may do this by contacting the office for a copy of the Talent Bank form or by downloading it from our website. Feel free to contact us should you have an area of concern you feel we should be addressing. Thanking you for your support and continued participation in LPRAC's programming.

Hasta la Próxima,

***Fernando Betancourt***

Fernando Betancourt



Fernando and a Student  
from the Dwight Elementary  
School in Hartford

ticipation in many of the events and activities that we have planned for the rest of the year. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to a Spring issue chock full of upcoming events and timely topical public hearings and workshops.

Cordially,

***Ramon L. Arroyo***

Ramón L. Arroyo

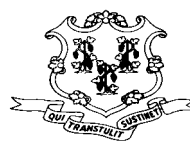
## ***Esquina de Refranes***

Todo es posible, soñar, crear, llegar... tan sólo hacen falta las ganas de luchar.

Lucy Barcenás

**Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission**  
**State of Connecticut**  
18-20 Trinity Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

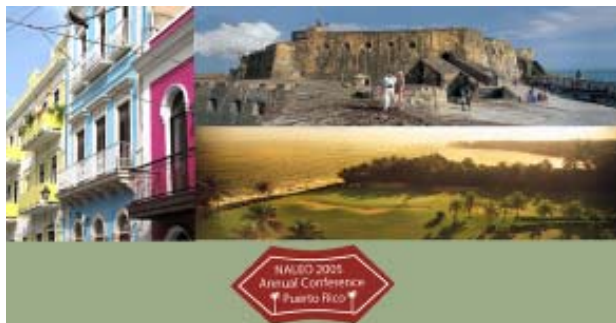
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Fifth Annual Dual Language Institute**

The Hartford Public Schools Fifth Annual Dual Language Two-Day Institute on June 29 and June 30, 2005. For more info, please contact Carol Bernson Shapiro at 860-695-8526.



## ***THE LATINO & PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION Events***

LPRAC'S 8TH Annual Gala Awards  
Foxwoods Resort Casino  
***Reserve your Table Today***  
Saturday, October 8, 2005

Theme - Hispanics and the Health Field  
Keynote Speaker - Dr. Joxel García, Deputy Dir.  
Pan American Health Organization

For More Information, Please contact:  
The LPRAC Office at 860-240-8330

### **Puerto Rico Welcomes NALEO in 2005**

NALEO's 22nd Annual Conference will Take Place from June 23  
- 25 in San Juan Puerto Rico

For more information visit their website at [www.naleo.org](http://www.naleo.org).